

## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by  
the Boarders.

"There is one thing that working-men should remember at this time," said Phil, "and that is, that promises made by parliamentary candidates don't amount to anything. I mean, of course, those candidates brought forward by either the Liberal or Conservative parties or such Independents as receive their endorsement or support. I don't care how honest or conscientious a candidate may be in promising you measures of reform or how well disposed he may be to labor organizations, if he owes his success at the polls to the influence and support of either party, then, despite his good intentions, he can do no more for you than that particular party to which he is attached is prepared to do as a whole. Workingmen should realize that it is a PARTY that rules at Quebec as well as at Ottawa, and that it will legislate only upon such matters as are enunciated in its platform, without regard to what its members may or may not have promised their constituents. The platform of a party is formulated by its leaders, and is framed more with regard to public opinion than with a view of embodying great questions of principle; it is built to catch votes and calculated to please its supporters in power. To that platform every candidate who receives the endorsement or support of that party must subscribe; he must subscribe to it even before that endorsement or support is given; and to just so much as is contained in that platform that party is bound and becomes responsible. But in no case does it become responsible for any promises made by its candidates outside of this. When, therefore, a candidate comes before you with promises of measures which are not embodied in the platform of the particular party that supports him you may safely put him down as a fraud. He knows very well, and you ought to know by this time, that it is utterly impossible for him to fulfil them. The party which claims his support don't care a continental what promises he makes or what means he employs so long as he gets elected, neither can it be blamed for the gullibility of the people; he cannot secure more for you than his party is prepared to give, and it in turn cannot reasonably be expected to give more than is contained in its platform. Therefore, judge your candidates, not by the promises they make, for they are worthless, but judge them by the platform with which the party to which they belong come before the people."

"I have not as yet seen the platform of either the one or other of these parties," said Brown, "but when I consider the relations of capital and labor and the business-like methods of the old political parties to secure place and position, I am afraid that the platform of neither the one or other will be such as to warrant me in giving them my support. To carry on a successful political campaign requires a lot of money; this is something that you and I and the class to which we belong have not got, or having but a little, are not at all prepared to spend it on politics. The old party politicians know this and hence both parties grovel in the dust before capitalists who subscribe handsomely to their election funds. Particular care is taken not to injure the interests or to check the arrogance of this class of the community, for their enmity means death to either party. If the interests of labor and capital were identical it would be an easy matter for either party to frame such a platform as would command the support of both, but they are antagonistic. Capital in looking after its interests is always on the alert and carefully watches every move and action of our Legislatures—it is aggressive! Labor, on the other hand, lacks this

persistent watchfulness and determination which characterizes its opponent. Though it may occasionally be roused by some extraordinary glaring wrong, its efforts are spasmodic and it is soon lulled to rest. All this is known to politicians and governs their actions. Under these circumstances I don't expect to see a great deal of labor reform in the platform of either party. Were the working classes of this Province organized as well as they ought to be, or were those that are organized but half as determined and aggressive as their opponents, both parties would be compelled, even at the risk of offending capitalism, to embody those measures of reform in their platform which are most needed; as it is, however, we will have to be satisfied with what capital, through the instrumentality of the old political parties, is prepared to give."

BILL BLADES.

## OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

## THE TORONTO MAYORALTY.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—Your Toronto correspondent, in last issue of THE ECHO, in writing about the mayoralty election in this city, after naming some of those who appeared on the platform of Mr. John McMillan, (and I am sorry to say he only mentioned a few of the many well-known among labor representatives who took that platform) he uses my name, and then goes on to state that "it was publicly alleged that Wright, Armstrong, et al. only supported Mr. McMillan so as to divide the labor vote to the detriment of Mr. Fleming and in the interest of Mr. Osler." I will leave Messrs. Wright, Armstrong and Bradley to state their own case, but on behalf of myself I wish to give the above a most emphatic denial. I took the platform for Mr. McMillan, believing him, as I did then and still do, to be the best man in the field and the one who should have received the undivided support of labor organizations in this city. My reasons for doing so were that for seven years Mr. McMillan was a member of our City Council, two years of which he held the position of Chairman of the Executive Committee, and in that time he was always the friend and champion of labor. Moreover, he is at present, and for a number of years past, a member in good standing of the Order of the Knights of Labor and a workingman in every sense of the word, while his successful opponent is what is known as a real estate shark. I also deny, as one who knows the man well, that he was the candidate of the Orange Order, for he was supported by all classes of citizens, including the Mail, as your correspondent says, but unfortunately for the good of Toronto he was not supported by enough votes to elect him. Your correspondent, who, by the way, is well known here, notwithstanding his pen name, is only following his usual tactics in stating what is not true in his report of the late election, for he cannot even give the majorities right, as Mr. Fleming had only a plurality of 350, but then it is enough to hold the seat by for one year. Your correspondent errs also when he says Fleming done no canvassing. In common with all good union men I will not take a back seat in being thankful that Mr. Osler, the candidate of a section of the Board of Trade, was defeated; but I will not admit that the best man for the position was chosen, and trust that when the next municipal elections occur there will be a little more unanimity among the labor organizations of this city, and that a candidate that has the full confidence of the labor elements of Toronto will have the united support of organized labor.

I am, sir,  
Yours truly,  
Geo. W. Dower.

Toronto, Jan. 11, 1892.

## ARE BRITISH-CANADIAN WORKING-MEN SLAVES.

To the Editor of THE ECHO.

SIR,—In my last letter I painted out a few of the principle causes confuting the national boast that "Britons never shall be Slaves." Now the question arises, why are we slaves? I answer for want of a government to enact laws conformable to our wants, and as long as the present system of legislation is allowed to exist, so long will we be compelled to remain in slavery, not through any fault of the government, but through our own, both immediately and collectively.

It is our privilege as British subjects to elect men to represent us in the different legislative assemblies, to make laws for the good of the public at large and not for the minority. Do they do this? No; on the contrary they create laws for the benefit of

themselves and also for the benefit of capitalism, and the result is that we who are the means of sending those members to Parliament, are scoffed at and trampled upon. Therefore if we do not wish to remain slaves we must unite and put men in office who will do what we require of them, and if they do not comply with our wishes they will have to keep clear of the ballot box, and if we do not learn how to make good use of that box we must be content with slavery. AN ORGANIZED WORKINGMAN.

Montreal, 10th January, 1892.

## Election of Officers.

Progress Assembly 3852 at its last meeting elected the following officers:—M. W. E. Lauer; W. F. L. Breen; V. S. J. Clarke; Rec. Sec., L. Jehu; Fin. Sec., J. Murphy; Treas., S. Dixon; Almoner, J. Storey; Stat., J. McDermott; Delegates to D. A. 18—B. Feeney, J. Murphy and L. Breen.

At the Regular meeting of District Assembly 18, Knights of Labor, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—Wm. Sandilands, D.M.W.; Jos. Goodfellow, D.W.F.; Chas. Wilkie, D.R.S.; Jos. Warren, D.F.S.; John Brennan, D.Treas.

The following officers have been elected by District Assembly 19:—J. A. Rodier, D.M.W.; C. M. Asselin, D.W.F.; A. Blondin, D.R.S.; N. Gravel, D.F.S.; J. Deloges; D. Treas. Delegates to Central Trades and Labor Council—Jos. Beland, Jos. Renaud, O. Lessard.

## DARK WAYS IN CHICAGO.

The Chicago Herald on Monday morning printed the following:

"Strange stories are current about the recent police raid at Greif's Hall. It is told that because of the refusal of wealthy members of a secret association to expend more money for the 'suppression of anarchy' the police—or certain fixtures in the department—proposed to show the subscribers to the secret fund that the 'Social Revolutionists' are not yet dead.

"In a long interview with 'A prominent citizen, an attorney of great prominence, whose clients are among the wealthy class,' it is alleged that shortly after the Haymarket riot, in May, 1886 three meetings of capitalists and business men were called through secret invitations, at which were subscribed sums aggregating \$115,000, with pledges of an annual fund of \$100,000. It was agreed that this money should be spent in suppressing anarchy, and no specific statement of receipts or expenditures should be made by the committee controlling the fund. The interview continues: 'Throughout the years that followed until last October we have all responded to the assessments of the finance committee of the citizens' movement. The latter part of the month of last October a general meeting was held, and the finance committee was present in a body. No one knew why the meeting was called. When we assembled the chairman of the finance committee made a speech. He said there was \$57,550 in the treasury. The committee had not expended any money for a year, believing that anarchy was dead in Chicago. But during the last few days he had been approached by a certain police officer, who declared that the 'Reds' were about to break forth again. The policeman had demanded money.

"The committee refused to give it. The committee asked the sanction of the subscribers, and it was freely granted. The fact that a policeman had demanded money set three or four of us thinking, and we, notwithstanding our agreement, began to make inquiries. We find that during the years following the Haymarket riot there had been two police funds; that guaranteed by the city, and one furnished by the citizens. From this latter fund, which has ranged from \$50,000 to \$140,000 annually, there had been drawn every dollar subscribed, except that of last year. A few days before the raid on Grief's hall, a demand for money had been made. The committee refused to advance another penny.

"The finance committee called another meeting immediately after the raid. There was no disguising of charges. That the raid was directly or indirectly instituted for the purpose of inspiring the men who had subscribed to the fund with the idea that the 'reds' were again on the warpath was set forth. We told the committee to balance its books, make a pro rata division of the funds still held by it, and render a report of all money received and expended.

"The committee had anticipated us and had the report prepared. It showed that \$487,000 had been expended. 'It will all come out some day,' said a member of the citizens' committee, 'no matter how closely the members of the finance committee hold their tongues. Somebody has got rich out of this thing, and the raid on Grief's hall was intended solely to bolster up 'the back-sliding' subscribers to a fund from which policemen drew thousands of dollars.'

## FOUND IN A WHALE'S BLUBBER.

The whaling bark, Helen Mar, which returned to port from the Arctic a week ago, was far from being high hook. She had one honor, however, that of taking the largest whale captured during the season. It was a monster bowhead that yielded 2,450 pounds of bone and several hundred barrels of oil. As a rule, bowheads only yield from 1,400 to 1,800 pounds of bone. From the time the mighty animal was sighted until it had been killed and towed to the ship's side was just 25 minutes, about the quickest time on record.

During the operation of stripping off the blubber the spade manipulated by the man doing the cutting struck a hard unyielding substance which, on being exposed, proved to be the iron shaft of an old-style harpoon. The find was soon drawn from its fleshy sheath and passed on board, where it was examined

in much curiosity by the crew. It was about three and a half feet long, with a slender shaft between its broad, barbed point and the pole socket. Deep in the shaft, at its junction with the barb, was stamped the name J. B. Morse.

The J. B. Morse was the name of an old-time whaler that cruised in the Arctic half a century ago. Many of the old whalers on the beach remember that a Nantucket whaling vessel called the J. B. Morse was one of the Arctic whaling fleet before and during the early fifties, but few have any recollection what became of her. Her last trip ended in this bay, and she cast anchor in the bay at a spot that is now filled in and covered with business houses. It was during the height of the gold excitement, and she was pulled to pieces for the old iron she contained. The old harpoon must have been buried in the whale for at least 43 years.

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